NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF HULL, MASSACHUSETTS

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Notes on the birds of Hull, Massachusetts by Everett W. Ricker

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EVERETT W. RICKER

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BY

Everett W. Ricker.

ILLUSTRATED.

NEWTONVILLE. C. J. MAYNARD 1896.

INTRODUCTION.

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This list, for it is but little more than a list, I have made up of birds that have either been seen by myself or by my friend Mr. B. and his son, both of whom are well aquainted with our birds, while a very few have been reported to me by gunners. I have however, only given those in this list that I feel quite sure occur, as I know that it is very easy to make mistakes and the temptations are strong to make as large a list as possible.

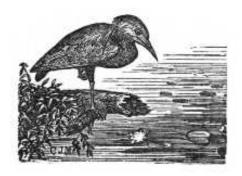
My chances for observing birds have been rather limited, as I have had only some afternoons and Sundays, during the summer months, thus I have no doubt overlooked some species. Very few species raise their young here, and those nests which I have found, were mostly those of birds which breed on the ground, or occasionally in low bushes. Migrating species make a very brief stay, as, on account of the comparatively barren nature of the soil and scarcity of trees, there is but little to attract them here.

Hull, as every one knows, is a peninsulawith five hills and stretches of level, sandy soil sparsely covered with rather coarse grass. There are very few trees, except those that grow near the hills. Point Allerton, it is said, was covered with trees in early times and a legend of the

INTRODUCTION.

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place says that the early Norsemen landed there and had a battle with the Indians, during which one of their men was killed. The place was undoubtedly inhabited by Indians, as I have found Indian relics all over the hills.



CATALOGUE.

HOLBOELL'S GREBE.

Colymbus holborllii.

Occurs occasionally off the coast in winter and autumn.

LOON.

URINATOR IMBER.

This species has been seen here in winter and autumn.

BIRDS OF HULL

HERRING GULL.

LARUS SMITHSONIANUS.

Great numbers of these are to be seen at the proper season.

COMMON TERN.

STERNA HIRUNDO.

This species is of very common occurrence here in summer.

ARCTIC TERN.

STERNA PARADISABA.

Occasionally occurs in spring and summer.

GULL-BILLED TERN.

GELORELIDON NILOTICA.

Of rare occurrence in the autumnal migrations.

GANNET.

SULA BASSANA.

Occurs during spring and autumn migrations.

WILSON'S PETREL.

OCEANITES OCEANICUS.

Mr. B. and his son say that when fishing off the beacon at Point Allerton one day, the latter part of June 1894, they saw a flock of these birds, and that they were quite tame; when they threw overboard any pieces of fish, the Petrel darted after them quite eagerly.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, SHELLDRAKE.

MERGUS SERRATOR.

I have been told by different gunners that these are here; knowing how common they are